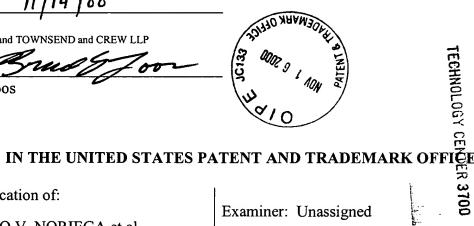
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

Brad J. Loos



In re application of:

GERARDO V. NORIEGA et al.

Application No.: 09/644,201

Filed: August 22, 2000

For: **GUIDEWIRE FOR CROSSING**

OCCLUSIONS OR STENOSIS

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 3731

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The references cited (AA-AL) on attached form PTO-1449 are being called to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 C.F.R. 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

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Applicant believes that <u>no fee is required</u> for submission of this statement, since it is being submitted prior to the first Office Action. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig P. Wong Reg. No. 45,231

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